

December 2, 2018

Love and Devotion

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

On November 12, Stan Lee, creator, editor-in-chief, and chairman of the Marvel Comics universe, passed away at the age of 95. In a video last year, Lee said, “Those stories have room for everyone, regardless of their race, gender, religion or color of their skin. The only things we don’t have room for are hatred, intolerance and bigotry.” For example, the X-Men heroes “focused on fighting the daily oppression mutants faced at the hands of society and the government.” One tribute to Lee reads, “Lee’s work laid the foundation for a universe where anyone could be a hero, regardless of race, color, gender, or any difference.”¹

The student book author writes that loving God includes “a relationship of command and obedience [that] can generate a passion that motivates us.”² Loving God means being in relationship with God. The kind of relationship God expects of us is one of obedience to biblical instructions and Jesus’ teachings. Through our obedience, we can find a passion that spurs us on to do the work of the Kingdom.

People find passions from a myriad of places and spaces. A passion for equality undoubtedly comes from a place of love and care for others. We can take our love of God, our relationship with Jesus, and our passion for the gospel and find our passion for bringing the kingdom of God to fruition in this broken and hurting world.

1. How does the greatest commandment of loving God involve a relationship of command and obedience? What roles do command and obedience play in your relationship with God?
2. From what places and spaces do your passions come? Which passions come from a place of love and care for others?
3. How can your passions bring about the kingdom of God in this broken and hurting world? How do your passions have an impact on someone else’s life?

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¹From “Stan Lee Created a Universe Where Everyone Could Be Super, Not Just Straight White Men,” by Frederick Joseph, The Huffington Post ([huffingtonpost.com/entry/opinion-stan-lee-racism-hero_us_5beb41dae4b0caeec2bef1ed](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/opinion-stan-lee-racism-hero_us_5beb41dae4b0caeec2bef1ed)).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2018-2019, by Stan Purdum (Cokesbury, 2018); page 8.